



May 14, 2004

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ED RENDELL  
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DAVID NAFTZGER  
*Executive Director*

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, S-128  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, S-125A  
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The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, H-218  
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The Honorable David R. Obey  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
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On October 1, 2003, we the Great Lakes Governors outlined nine Great Lakes restoration and protection priorities to guide Great Lakes restoration and protection efforts. To meet these priorities, we believe that it is important for the U.S. Congress to provide immediate support for important activities in addition to large scale, long-term funding. We continue to work with the region's Mayors toward this end.

As the Governors of our nation's Great Lakes States, we continue to support large scale, long-term funding programs to be implemented by the States. These programs will be essential to the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes. In addition to our continued support for the important principle of large scale, State-implemented restoration and protection funding, we urge the following appropriations in fiscal year 2005 to advance each of the priorities for Great Lakes restoration and protection that were outlined in our October 1 letter.

- **Ensure the sustainable use of our water resources while confirming that the States retain authority over water use and diversions of Great Lakes waters.**

To successfully implement the Great Lakes Charter Annex of 2001, the collection and application of scientific information regarding surface and ground water must be improved in the Great Lakes Basin.

We ask that an initial \$5 million be authorized and appropriated for this work by the U.S. Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Producing three-dimensional geologic models of glacial materials by the Central Great Lakes Geologic Mapping Coalition is included in this request.

- **Promote programs to protect human health against adverse effects of pollution in the Great Lakes ecosystem.**

Combined sewer overflows are a major source of pollution concentrated mostly in the older cities of the Great Lakes Region and the northeastern U.S. The Wet Weather Water Quality Act of 2000 authorized \$1.4 billion nationally to begin to address this issue.

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We ask that appropriations be prioritized to address combined sewer overflows in the Great Lakes region.

- **Control pollution from diffuse sources into water, land and air.**  
Clean Water Act Section 319 program funding provides grants for nonpoint source controls. In fiscal year 2004, nationwide funding resulted in approximately \$60 million for the Great Lakes States. Continued funding is essential.

We would ask that \$60 million again be authorized and appropriated for the Great Lakes States.

- **Continue to reduce the introduction of persistent bioaccumulative toxics (PBT) into the Great Lakes ecosystem.**  
The Bi-national Toxics Reduction Strategy has as its goal the minimization of continued PBT introductions.

Toward this end, we ask that funds be appropriated for a pollutant minimization incentive program for industries and municipalities in the amount of \$1.6 million for the region.

- **Stop the introduction and spread of non-native aquatic invasive species.**  
The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA) provides a tremendous opportunity to increase the national focus on prevention and control of harmful species that affect the environment and economy of our country. In the Great Lakes region, we have been stricken by sea lampreys, zebra mussels, round gobies and many other invading species. The impacts are real, affecting a major share of our nation's industrial and agricultural output and threatening the well-being of 25 million Americans who depend directly on the Great Lakes for water, recreation and food. Six of the Great Lakes states have developed and are currently implementing state management plans to control the economic and ecological impacts of invasive species.

We therefore ask that you reauthorize the NAISA by passing HR 1080 and S525 as well as appropriating funds to implement this Act. We also ask that an additional \$4.2 million be authorized and appropriated for sea lamprey controls in the Great Lakes and that the current U.S Fish and Wildlife Service's appropriation for implementation of state management plans be increased by \$1.8 million. Finally, we ask that you support the request of the House and Senate Great Lakes Task Forces for \$8 million to make permanent the existing barrier in the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal, to construct a second barrier, and to operate and maintain both barriers at full federal cost to prevent the spread of the Asian carp and other non-native species.

- **Enhance fish and wildlife by restoring and protecting habitats and coastal wetlands.**  
It is crucial to protect sensitive coastal habitats, which are irreplaceable once lost. To that end, \$30 million was appropriated in 2001 as part of the

Great Lakes Coastal Restoration Program. That funding attracted an additional \$42 million in State and local matches that was spent largely on habitat protection and restoration.

In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Upper and Lower Great Lakes field stations provide critical research, monitoring and restoration of Lake Trout and endangered species like the Lake Sturgeon and Piping Plover. The hatcheries are the primary source of Lake Trout eggs and fingerlings stocked in the Great Lakes each year to maintain what has become a world class sportfishery, creating significant economic benefits for small businesses and communities throughout the Great Lakes Basin. It is also imperative that federal and State agencies coordinate marking of hatchery fish in the Great Lakes Basin to evaluate restoration efforts and sustainability of the fishery. We ask that \$5.6 million be appropriated to maintain this valuable asset.

We therefore ask that funding for these programs be reauthorized at a minimum level of \$35.6 million and that funding be appropriated in the same amount.

- **Restore to environmental health the Areas of Concern (AOC) identified by the International Joint Commission as needing remediation.**

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement directs Canada and the United States, working with State and provincial governments, to develop plans (known as Remedial Action Plans) to restore and protect ecosystem health so that the water is drinkable, beaches are swimmable and fish are safe to eat, among other such beneficial uses. The two nations also agreed that the worst areas, designated as "Areas of Concern" would be given priority attention.

We ask Congress to appropriate previously authorized funds in the amount of \$5.7 million to distribute to the Great Lakes States via program grants for Remedial Action Programs (RAPs) and Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs); \$15.4 million for other AOC related activities; as well as \$45 million for Legacy Act implementation.

We therefore request that funds in the amount of \$66.1 million be appropriated to address Areas of Concern throughout the Great Lakes.

- **Standardize and enhance the methods by which information is collected, recorded and shared within the region.**

It is essential that indicators of water quality and related environmental factors in the Great Lakes be developed and a network created to monitor those indicators regularly throughout the Great Lakes Basin.

We therefore ask that funds in the amount of \$7 million be authorized in support of these efforts. We further ask that this amount be appropriated to ensure that the best scientific information can be provided to those who manage the waters of the Great Lakes.

- **Adopt sustainable use practices that can protect environmental resources and that may enhance the commercial and recreational value of our Great Lakes.**

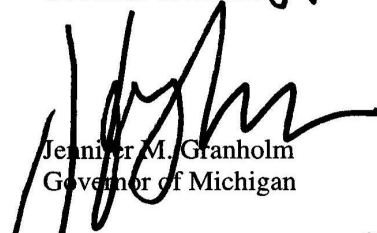
In spite of extensive efforts in all the Great Lakes States and municipalities to improve sewage treatment, beach closings remain a vexing problem. Monitoring and early detection is essential to ensure that our citizens' health is adequately protected. The Beach Act authorizes critical funds to allow the Great Lakes States to improve beach-monitoring and posting programs.

We therefore ask that Congress appropriate \$2 million already authorized under the Beach Act. In addition, we urge you to allow State grant administration costs to be allowable in determining match requirements.

We welcome the opportunity to join you in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes by taking these substantive steps this year. We believe progress toward our shared goals for the Great Lakes is essential to the public health and economic vitality of our nation. We continue to engage the public in our dialogue and look forward to building on the partnership among our region's Governors, Mayors and Members of Congress.

  
Rod Blagojevich  
Governor of Illinois


  
Joseph E. Kernan  
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Jennifer M. Granholm  
Governor of Michigan

  
Tim Pawlenty  
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George E. Pataki  
Governor of New York

  
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cc: Great Lakes U.S. Congressional Delegation